

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 11-13 to further clarify the features set forth therein.

I. Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7, 9-11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuriyama et al. (US 5,710,634), hereinafter referred to as “Kuriyama”, in combination with Barry et al. (US 5,859,711), hereinafter referred to as “Barry”, and further in view of Vives (US 6,663,304), hereinafter referred to as “Vives”. Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejections at least in view of the following exemplary comments.

Of these rejected claims, claims 1 and 11-13 are independent. These independent claims *inter alia* and in some variation recite: “wherein in case that the clutch is disengaged, the first, medium supply section and the second medium supply section supply the recording medium independently with respective motors, and wherein in case that the clutch is engaged, the first medium supply section and the second medium supply section cooperate to supply the recording medium.”

The Examiner alleges that Kuriyama discloses the above-quoted features of these independent claims (*see* page 4 of the Office Action). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Kuriyama describes that the clutch 219 is turned on and the plunger 223 is turned off, thereby disconnecting the drive of the ASF from the conveyor motor 217, whereby paper feed from the ASF is prohibited. In Step S2, the conveyor motor 217 is turned on, thereby

commencing feed of the original document sheet from the ADF. Step S3 determines whether the original document sheet has reached the original register sensor 215. If the original document sheet has not reached the sensor 215 yet, the process proceeds to Step S4 which counts the time. Namely, it is determined that the original document sheet has not been fed correctly when the time has been counted up before the original register sensor 215 is not turned off even after the feed of the original document sheet by a distance which is significantly greater than the length of the original document sheet. This distance is set to be about 1.5 times that of the length of the original document sheet. Such failure in the feed of the original document sheet is informed to the main control section 201 in Step S5. When the original document sheet has reached the original register sensor 215, the process proceeds to Step S6 to read the original (Figs. 14 and 15; col. 15, lines 11 to 38).

Kuriyama further describes the “ADF printing mode.” In Step S24, the conveyor motor 217 is started and Step S25 is executed to feed the recording paper until the paper reaches the original register sensor 215. Step S26 determines whether the leading end of the recording paper has passed the sensor 215. When the paper has passed the sensor 215, an answer YES is given and the feed of the recording paper is continued and whether the paper has reached the register sensor 216 is determined in Step S28. When the set time has not been counted, the process proceeds to Step S31 which determines whether the clutch 219 is on or off. If the clutch 219 is in the on state, it is determined that the trailing end of the recording paper has not reached yet the sensor 215. In such a case, Step S26 is executed again to check the state of the sensor 215 (Figs. 16 and 17; col. 16, lines 12 to 31).

As the Examiner pointed out, Kuriyama discloses the clutch 219 (in Fig. 5). However, in case that the clutch 219 is disengaged, the conveyor motor 217 is disconnected from the scanner section 20, thereby prohibiting the feed of the recording paper (col. 16, lines 34-37).

That is, in case that the clutch 219 in Fig. 5 is disengaged, the scanner section 20 can not supply the recording paper. In other words, Kuriyama does not disclose or suggest in case that the clutch is disengaged, the first medium supply section and the second medium supply section supply the recording medium independently with respective motors, and wherein in case that the clutch is engaged, the first medium supply section and the second medium supply section cooperate to supply the recording medium.

Barry and Vives do not cure the above-identified deficiencies of Kuriyama. For at least these exemplary reasons, claims 1 and 11-13 are patentable over the prior art of record. Claims 2-7, 9, and 10 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuriyama, Barry and Vives, and further in view of Botten et al. (US 2003/0098984), hereinafter referred to as "Botten". Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection at least in view of the following comments.

Claim 8 depends on claim 1. It was already demonstrated that Kuriyama, Barry, and Vives do not meet all the requirements of independent claims 1. Botten is relied upon only for its alleged disclosure of the drive force blocking section (*see* page 10 of the Office Action). Clearly, Botten does not compensate for the above-identified deficiencies of Kuriyama, Barry, and Vives. Together, the combined teachings of these references would not have (and could not

have) led the artisan of ordinary skill to have achieved the subject matter of claim 1. Since claim 8 depends on claim 1, it is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


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